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Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Programme of work for 2018

I. Mandate of the Committee

1. The mandates of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat for 2018 are contained in General Assembly resolutions 72/13 and 72/11, respectively.

2. In its resolution 72/13 entitled "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People", the General Assembly, noting with deep regret the passage of 50 years since the onset of the Israeli occupation and 70 years since the adoption of resolution 181 (II) and the Nakba without tangible progress towards a peaceful solution, requested the Committee to: (a) continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination; (b) support the achievement without delay of an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 lines; (c) mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people; (d) keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretary-General; and (e) continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, particularly during the critical period of political instability and humanitarian hardship.

3. In its resolution 72/11, entitled "Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat", the General Assembly requested that the Division, in particular, continue to undertake activities in support of the mandate of the Committee, including to: (a) monitor developments relevant to the question of Palestine; (b) organize international meetings and activities in support of the Committee's mandate with the participation of all sectors of the international community; (c) ensure, within existing resources, the continued participation of eminent persons and internationally renowned experts in these meetings and activities; (d) develop and expand the "Question of Palestine" website and the documents collection of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine; (e) prepare and widely disseminate publications pertaining to the question of Palestine listed in paragraph 87 of the annual report of the Committee (A/72/35); (f) develop and enhance the annual

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training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts; and (g) organize the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, including an annual exhibit or cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations.

II. Priority issues in the programme of work of the Committee for 2018

4. The mandated activities of the Committee and the Division for 2018 will be held against the backdrop of the seventieth anniversary of the Nakba and will therefore be focused on generating heightened international awareness of the question of Palestine, as well as international support for the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and independence, and the urgency of international efforts to contribute to the achievement of a just and lasting peace. The aims of these activities include:

(a) Supporting steps taken by the international community, including key regional partners, towards presenting an expanded multilateral framework, with a view to reviving a credible political peace process, bringing to an end the Israeli occupation and achieving the fulfilment of the rights of the Palestinian people and the recognition of the State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 lines and its admission to full membership in the United Nations;

(b) Reaching out to Member States working in support of the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine to identify ways in which the Committee can support their efforts;

(c) Mobilizing international, regional and national actors to advocate for the two-State solution and to ensure that all final status issues are permanently resolved, solely through negotiations, on the basis of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(d) Engaging members of the Security Council and candidates for membership to advocate for the implementation of the long-standing parameters for peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as reiterated in the relevant United Nations resolutions and for action in accordance with those parameters and commitments in this regard;

(e) Advocating for the right to return, and just compensation of, the Palestine refugees, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

(f) Mobilizing international, regional and national actors to advocate for the end to the blockade of Gaza, in conformity with international humanitarian law and the relevant resolutions, and alleviating the dire humanitarian situation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a matter of urgency;

(g) Calling on the international community to shift from a humanitarian to a political and human rights framework, while stressing the legal obligations of all stakeholders;

(h) Reaching out to all regional groups at the United Nations with a view to expanding the membership of the Committee, as well as generating awareness of and support for the work of the Committee;

(i) Expanding cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations to mobilize international solidarity and support for the achievement by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights and a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine;

(j) Enhancing the cooperation and coordination between all of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the Division for Palestinian Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination and an independent State of Palestine;

(k) Enhancing coordination with the Department of Public Information on messaging in support of Committee's priorities and to support the implementation of the Department's special information programme on the question of Palestine, as discussed in General Assembly resolution 72/12.

III. Activities of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights

A. Action by the Committee

5. During 2018, the Committee will implement and report on the request by the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/13, that the Committee focus its activities throughout 2018 on efforts and initiatives to support the achievement without delay of an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 lines.

6. The Committee, through its regular open meetings, will continue to raise awareness of the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to mobilize appropriate international action in respect of critical developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in relevant meetings of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Committee will also hold periodic briefings and events throughout 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the Committee will hold a special meeting on 29 November 2018 and organize, in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, a cultural event and/or an exhibit in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

8. The Committee will continue to participate in relevant intergovernmental and other conferences and meetings, as necessary. The Committee considers such participation to be an important aspect of its work to promote international support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

9. In cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, the Committee will continue to maintain contacts with the Government of the State of Palestine and Palestinian civil society. The Committee will continue to invite prominent personalities, United Nations system entities and civil society representatives to its meetings at United Nations Headquarters, including through the Working Group of the Committee, in order to further enrich the substantive content and format of its deliberations.

10. The Committee will continue to support organizations and entities of the United Nations system in their work aimed at assisting and developing the institutional capacity of the Palestinian people, with a special emphasis on the inclusion of women and youth in various fields and the advancement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine.

11. The Bureau of the Committee will continue to hold monthly meetings, in addition to consultations with the Permanent Missions of Member States and Observers, Governments and intergovernmental organizations at Headquarters and

abroad to encourage their active involvement in its programme of work. The exchanges should help to promote an understanding of the mandate and objectives of the Committee.

12. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/13, the Committee invites all of its members, observer States and organizations to plan national and regional activities on the issue of Palestinian rights and the question of Palestine, with a focus on efforts to convey solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people and to end the Israeli occupation without delay.

B. International meetings and conferences

13. Through its activities, the Committee intends to continue to raise international awareness of the developments on the ground, including those that constitute obstacles to meaningful negotiations on permanent status issues. This will include highlighting the illegality and expansion of Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the legal obligation of third parties not to support or contribute to breaches of international law by Israel. The Committee will continue to prioritize the question of Jerusalem. The Committee will also seek to mobilize the broadest possible international support to the efforts of the State of Palestine to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. The Committee will continue to invite civil society organizations, including youth and women's groups and refugee representatives, to relevant international meetings and conferences to enhance dialogue, coordinate efforts for a just solution to the conflict and strengthen solidarity with the Palestinian people.

15. In so doing, the Committee will continue to explore additional formats other than international conferences, as appropriate, such as round tables, speaking tours and delegation visits. It will endeavour to organize its events in cooperation with interested intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States, and national Governments, with due regard to cost-sharing arrangements. It will strive to achieve gender and geographic balance among invited experts and will encourage the active participation of Governments from all regional groups. The Committee, through its Bureau, will regularly assess the outcomes of the international meetings and conferences and will disseminate the practical recommendations emanating from conferences and meetings to the United Nations membership at large and systematically evaluate them, with a view to taking follow-up action, as appropriate. The Bureau will reach out to other members and observers of the Committee and encourage them to join Committee delegations attending various events.

16. In 2018, the Committee intends to organize a number of events, including the following:

(a) A Committee delegation visit to Latin America and engagement with representatives of regional civil society (date to be determined);

(b) A United Nations forum on the question of Palestine to mark the seventieth anniversary of the 1948 war and the Nakba, to be held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 May;

(c) An international conference on the question of Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in Rabat (date to be determined);

(d) A seminar on legal aspects of the question of Palestine (date and location to be determined);

(e) A Committee delegation visit to the European Union and engagement with representatives of regional civil society (date to be determined);

(f) A Committee delegation visit to Uganda and engagement with representatives of regional civil society (date to be determined).

C. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations

17. During 2018, the Committee will continue to cooperate on issues relevant to its mandate with the African Union, the European Union, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States. The Committee will also reach out to other organizations and to regional groups at the United Nations. Representatives of such groups and organizations will be invited to support and participate in the Committee programme of international meetings and conferences.

D. Cooperation with civil society

Civil society organizations

18. In recognition of the important contribution of Palestinian, Israeli and other civil society organizations, strengthening cooperation with civil society is an overarching objective for the Committee. The accreditation of civil society organizations with the Committee will continue through its Working Group, which will extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations. Through its engagement with civil society, the Committee seeks to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and to encourage civil society partners to work with their national Governments, parliamentarians and other institutions to promote Palestinian rights and a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

19. To keep abreast of developments, the Working Group of the Committee intends to request accredited civil society organizations to submit periodic reports on their activities in support of Palestinian rights and self-determination.

20. In 2018, the Committee and its Working Group intend to organize activities, including the following, in cooperation with Palestinian, Israeli and other civil society organizations worldwide:

(a) Organization, as appropriate, of meetings and consultations with civil society organizations in conjunction with international meetings and conferences held under the auspices of the Committee or separately;

(b) Participation of representatives of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as the secretariat of the Committee, in events on the question of Palestine organized by civil society organizations worldwide;

(c) Periodic open briefings by representatives of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society on the situation on the ground and their work in support of a peaceful realization of the two-State solution, held at United Nations Headquarters, including on the side-lines of major United Nations events;

(d) Periodic reporting on civil society initiatives related to the question of Palestine in its weekly bulletin *NGO Action News*;

(e) Outreach to civil society organizations that are not yet accredited to the Committee;

(f) Screening of films;

(g) Production and dissemination of information materials on the activities of the Committee and its Working Group, including through social media, including regular updating of the civil society page of the "Question of Palestine" website.

Parliaments and interparliamentary organizations

21. The Committee firmly believes that national parliaments and interparliamentary organizations play an important role in shaping public opinion, formulating policy guidelines, influencing Governments and upholding international legitimacy in support of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine. To that end, the Committee will strive to continue to involve parliamentarians and representatives of interparliamentary organizations in international conferences and meetings organized under its auspices and will work to organize joint events with interested interparliamentary organizations. The Committee will liaise with representatives of the European Parliament in the context of the Committee delegation visit to the European Union in 2018 and to organize additional consultations, as appropriate.

E. Publications programme

22. The Committee considers the publications programme of the Division to be an important information and outreach activity, which contributes to raising awareness of various aspects of the question of Palestine, the role and efforts of the United Nations and the work of the Committee among the Member States of the General Assembly and broadly at the international level. The Division is requested to continue to monitor and disseminate information on developments relevant to the question of Palestine and to discharge its mandate by issuing, electronically and/or in print, the following publications:

(a) A monthly bulletin on action by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of Palestine;

(b) A periodic review of developments relating to the Middle East peace process;

(c) An annual compilation of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council relating to the question of Palestine;

(d) Reports of international meetings and events held under the auspices of the Committee;

(e) Ad hoc studies and updates of existing studies on permanent status issues.

23. The Committee will ask the Division for Palestinian Rights to review the existing publications and make proposals for updating them.

F. United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine

24. The Committee requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue its work on the further development, expansion and updating of the "Question of Palestine" website, including the web-based United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL). The Division should continue to ensure that the UNISPAL collection of United Nations and related documents is comprehensive and up to date

and that the visual appearance of the website, as well as accessibility of information and usability on mobile devices, is improved through the finalization of its redesign.

25. To raise awareness about the situation on the ground and ensure an effective flow of information between the United Nations and civil society, the Division will continue, on behalf of the Committee, to maintain a presence on other social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, SoundCloud and YouTube.

G. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

26. In resolution 72/11, the General Assembly asked the Division to continue to organize events to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2018. In accordance with that resolution, the Division will continue to organize, under the guidance of the Committee, an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine.

H. Capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine

27. The Committee considers that, in the light of the importance and usefulness of its capacity-building programme for staff of the Government of the State of Palestine, as mandated by the General Assembly, it should continue to develop the programme, inter alia, with a view to supporting the Government of the State of Palestine in its efforts to establish more efficient, accountable and transparent institutions and to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. The Committee intends to expand the capacity-building programme in the context of the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation.

29. The Committee continues to believe that, in selecting candidates for its capacity-building and training programme, special consideration should be given to promoting broad participation across institutions of the State of Palestine, including those in Gaza. In line with past practice, the programme will be coordinated with other United Nations entities to avoid overlap and oversaturation, and will be committed to achieving gender balance. Training sessions should be held at United Nations Headquarters and at other locations, including in the State of Palestine, to enhance participation, subject to the availability of funding.

30. The Committee notes that, in 2017, and for the first time, the annual capacity-building programme for Palestinian officials at United Nations Headquarters was not implemented because candidates selected for the programme were unable to obtain visas to travel to New York in time to participate in it. In this regard, the Committee solicits the cooperation of the Government of the United States of America for future programmes, bearing in mind the host country agreement, and requests the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue the programme during 2018.

IV. Continuing review and assessment

31. The Committee will continue to review and assess its programme of work in the light of the situation on the ground and new political developments and will make adjustments, as necessary. It will actively seek feedback from participants in the events organized under its auspices and from other partners, apply lessons learned and follow best practices.

32. The Committee supports plans by the Division to conduct an independent assessment of the capacity building programme to assess its impact and optimize the use of resources in the future.

33. Mindful of budgetary constraints, the Committee will endeavour to organize its events in partnership with interested United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and national Governments, giving preference to cost-sharing arrangements. It will invite the Division for Palestinian Rights to streamline documentation using paper-smart approaches, where applicable. The Committee will mobilize social media and bloggers to promote global coverage and interaction of its activities and events in a cost-effective way. It will strive to achieve gender and geographic balance among invited experts and will encourage the active participation of Governments from all regional groups. The Committee, through its Bureau, will regularly assess the outcomes of its activities and events, boost media exposure, attendance and interaction and, where required, decide on steps to be taken to enhance the contributions of those activities to the mandated goals of the Committee.